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PART 1

GENERAL



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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CHAPTER 1A. GENERAL

Section 1A.04 Placement and Operation of Traffic Control Devices

The following is added to this section:

Guidance:

Traffic control devices, which are used on a part-time basis, should be in operation only during the time periods that they are required.

Section 1A.06 Uniformity of Traffic Control Devices

The following is added to this section:

Standard:

Any given device for the control of traffic shall have the same meaning and require the same action on the part of motorists regardless of where it is encountered.

Section 1A.07 Responsibility for Traffic Control Devices

The following is added to this section:

Support:

Pursuant to the provisions in CVC Section 21400, the Department of Transportation adopts uniform standards and specifications for all traffic control devices after consultation with local agencies and public hearings. The Department of Transportation consults with local agencies and the public through the California Traffic Control Devices Committee. The Department of Transportation publicizes these uniform standards and specifications for traffic control devices through the California Supplement and the MUTCD.

Standard:

In accordance with CVC Section 21401, only traffic control devices conforming to Department of Transportation standards and specifications shall be placed on streets and highways.

Subject to the requirements in CVC Sections 21100, 21100.1, 21107, 21107.5, 21107.6, and 21107.7, no person shall install or maintain in any area of private property used by the public any sign, signal, or marking or other device intended to regulate, warn, or guide traffic unless it conforms with Department of Transportation standards and specifications.

Support:

The delegation of maintenance activities to local authorities is usually exercised under the authority of Streets and Highways Code Section 130.

Section 1A.08 Authority for Placement of Traffic Control Devices

The following is added to this section:

Support:

California Vehicle Code (CVC) references are used throughout the California Supplement when the subject matter relates to State law.

Standard:

CVC 21400 provides that the Department of Transportation shall, after consultation with local agencies and public hearings, adopt rules and regulations prescribing uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices placed pursuant to the provisions of the Code.

CVC 21401 provides that only those official traffic control devices that conform to the uniform standards and specifications promulgated by the Department of Transportation shall be placed upon a street or highway.

CVC 21350 and 21351 give basic authority to the Department of Transportation and local authorities, in their respective jurisdictions, to place and maintain such official traffic control devices.

Option:

Local authorities may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution for regulating traffic by means of official traffic control devices meeting the requirements of CVC Section 21400. Refer to CVC Section 21100 (d).

Standard:

The use of unauthorized traffic control devices is prohibited by CVC 21465. Prohibited traffic control devices constitute a public nuisance and shall be removed per CVC 21467. This does not modify or limit the authority of the Public Utilities Commission to erect or maintain traffic control devices as authorized by law. Refer to CVC 21468.

Private advertising is prohibited on any highway right-of-way by Section 5403 (a) of the Business and Professions Code. "Highway" in this context includes roads, streets, boulevards, lanes, courts, places, commons, trails, ways or other rights-of-way or easements used for or laid out and intended for the public passage of vehicles or of vehicles and persons per Section 5213 of the Business and Professions Code.

Support:

The California Public Utilities Commission is the state regulatory agency with statutory authority over highway-rail grade crossings and highway-light rail transit grade crossings. Refer to Public Utilities Code Section 1202(a).

Section 1A.09 Engineering Study and Engineering Judgement

The following is added to this section:

Support:

Refer to CVC 627 for definition and requirements of "Engineering and Traffic Survey".

Section 1A.10 Interpretations, Experimentations, Changes and Interim Approvals

The following is added to this section:

Standard:

Requests shall be made to the FHWA for experimenting with any new traffic control device, its application or manner of use, or a provision not specifically described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Support:

In addition to the requirements of the FHWA, experimental traffic control devices are subject to the laws, regulations and policies of the State of California. Consultation with the Department of Transportation is necessary prior to installation and experimentation on public travelways in California for any FHWA permission to experiment. For information, contact the Secretary of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee at (916) 654-4715.

The California Supplement contains the official standards and policies of the State of California for the design, application, and placement of traffic control devices.

Experimentation is defined as research involving the acts of testing, evaluating, analyzing or discovering the effect of a specific device, principle, supposition, etc., usually carried out in an operational context. Experimentation could also be performed in a laboratory. The request for experimentation is a submission specifically requesting approval to use a non-standard device on public roadways for purposes of gathering verification data.

As used herein, the term "device" includes not only signs, signals, and markings, but also their application and manner of use.

Guidance:

Requests for experimentation, interpretation, or changes relating to the California Supplement should be sent to:

Secretary,
California Traffic Control Devices Committee – MS36
P.O. Box 942874, Sacramento, CA-94274-0001

The following procedures apply to requests for experimentation:

Submission of Projects**Guidance:**

A request for permission to experiment will be considered only when submitted by the public agency or private toll facility responsible for the operation of the road or street on which the experiment is to take place.

Experimentation requests should contain the following information:

1. A statement indicating the nature of the problem.
2. A description of the proposed change, how it was developed, the manner in which it deviates from the standard, and how it is expected to be an improvement over existing standards.
3. Any illustration, photograph, or videos, which would help, explain the experimental device or use of this device.
4. Any supporting data as to how the experimental device was developed, if it has been tried, in what ways it was found to be adequate or inadequate, and how was this choice of device or application arrived at.

Requests for experimentation that are submitted without an explanation of the objective, scope, and duration will be returned to the originator for amplification.

Procedure for Processing Requests**Support:**

- A. All requests for experimentation will be reviewed by the Secretary of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee to determine whether other related experimentation has been scheduled, in process, or already completed.
- B. The Secretary of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee will list the experimentation proposal on the next Committee agenda for review and approval. The Committee's approval would also include the specific guidelines to be followed for the experimentation.
- C. Action by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee on any request for experimental use of a non-conforming device could take several forms:
 1. Approval of the device for limited use on an experimental project.
 2. Approval of the device for limited use in a formal research project.
 3. Disapproval until such time as satisfactory research or other justification is submitted.
 4. Disapproval.
- D. After action by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee, the Secretary of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee will notify the originating party of its decision. If approved, the originating parties will be requested to submit a status report on the experimental testing at appropriate intervals. When the results of experimentation are completed, a final report will be prepared and forwarded to the Secretary for Committee review.
- E. The agency receiving approval for experimentation must agree to faithfully follow the specific guidelines for the experimentation, must forward reports as indicated, and must agree to terminate the experimentation upon notification.

Specific Guidelines for Experimental Proposal**Guidance:**

A specific proposal should be submitted for each request. This proposal may be submitted with the initial request or could be a follow-up to specific comments by the California Traffic Control Devices

Committee. The proposal, after approval by the Committee, will become an integral part of the approved experimentation. Each proposal should include:

- A. Scope: A detailed description of the experimentation, locations of installation, and number of experimental projects.
- B. Work Plan: A description of the proposed plan of study; the variables that are to be measured; the criteria against which the devices is to be evaluated; observations, measures and data which will be collected; whether the experimentation will be carried out in the field or under laboratory conditions; how installations of the experimental device or application will be made; the indication if any adverse effects on safety or traffic operations can be anticipated, together with the means that may be taken to minimize them; and the factors which will be held constant or measured and controlled in order to ensure that the true effects of the device are measured.
- C. Time Periods: Time periods for experimentation will normally not be less than six months nor more than two years.
- D. Evaluation Procedures: The California Traffic Control Devices Committee will approve criteria, which will be used to evaluate experimental devices or applications. To permit meaningful comparisons with standard installations, advice from specialists such as human factor experts, statisticians, etc., could be included.
- E. Reporting: A written status report must be forwarded to the sponsor 45 days prior to each public meeting. A final report must be completed within 90 days of the terminal date of the experimentation and forwarded to the Secretary of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee. Status reports will describe the progress of the work, any particular deviation from the work plan and anticipated time of conclusion. The final report will contain, as a minimum, the basic information on the problem, the preliminary investigations, the proposed solutions, the study procedures, the detailed analysis of the data, the results of the work, a discussion of the results, and whatever conclusions are drawn. If a change in the California Supplement is proposed, the recommended text (wording) for the California Supplement should be included.
- F. Administration: All experimentation proposals will include the agency sponsoring the study, the agency conducting the study, and the name and titles of principal researchers. There must be proof of professional traffic engineering capabilities and other related professional expertise to perform the experimentation and related evaluation processes.

Termination of Experimentation

Standard:

The project shall terminate at the end of the approved period unless an extension is granted, and all experimental devices and applications shall be removed unless specific permission is given for continued operation.

Support:

The California Traffic Control Devices Committee could, at any time, terminate approval of experimentation if significant safety hazards are indicated to be directly or indirectly attributable to the experimentation. Approval of any experimentation could also be terminated if no status report is received 45 days prior to each public meeting or no final report is received within 90 days of the terminal date of the experimentation.

Removal of Experimentation Installations

Standard:

All experimentation installations shall be removed upon termination of the experiment-when a decision is made by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee that the device is not warranted.

Note: Authority and reference cited: CVC Section 21400.

Section 1A.11 Relationship to Other Publications

The following is added to this section:

Standard:

The latest edition of Department of Transportation's publication titled "Traffic Sign Specifications" shall be a part of this manual.

Support:

The latest version of other documents that are useful sources of information with respect to use of this Manual are listed below. See the Introduction Part of this Supplement for ordering information for the following publications:

- A. "California Vehicle Code" (CVC), 2003 Edition (Department of Motor Vehicles)
- B. "California Building Standards Code" 2001 Edition (California Building Standards Commission)
- C. "California Business and Professions Code" (State of California)
- D. "California Code of Regulations" (State of California)
- E. "California Education Code" (State of California)
- F. "California Government Code" (State of California)
- G. "California Health and Safety Code" (State of California)
- H. "California Streets and Highways Code" (State of California)
- I. "Construction Manual", 2001 Edition. (Department of Transportation)
- J. "Flagging Instruction Handbook", 1999 Edition. (Department of Transportation)
- K. "Manual for Encroachment Permits on California State Highways", 2002 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- L. "High-Occupancy Vehicle Guidelines", 2003 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- M. "Highway Design Manual", 2001 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- N. "Historic Highway Bridges of California", (Department of Transportation)
- O. "Maintenance Manual", 1998 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- P. "Project Development Procedures Manual", 1999 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- Q. "Plans, Specifications and Estimates Guide" (PS&E), 2001 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- R. "Ramp Meter Design Manual", 2000 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- S. "Signal and Lighting Design Guide", 1995 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- T. "Standard Plans", 2002 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- U. "Standard Specifications", 2002 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- V. "Standard Special Provisions", 2002 Edition (Department of Transportation)
- W. "Traffic Control Devices Handbook", 2001 Edition (Institute of Transportation Engineers – ITE)
- X. "Traffic Engineering Metric Conversion Factors", 1993 Edition (American Association of State Highway and transportation Officials - AASHTO).
- Y. "Traffic Manual", 1996 Edition (Department of Transportation)

Section 1A.13 Definitions of Words and Phrases in This Manual

The following is added to this section:

Standard:

The following words and phrases, when used in This California Supplement, shall have the following meanings:

- 1. **CVC – California Vehicle Code.**
- 2. **Department of Transportation – California Department of Transportation.**
- 3. **Divided Highway – A highway with separated roadbeds for traffic in opposing directions.**
- 4. **Markings – All lines, words, or symbols, except signs, officially placed within the roadway to regulate, warn or guide traffic.**

5. **Scenic Highway** – An officially designated portion of the State Highway System traversing areas of outstanding scenic beauty which together with the adjacent scenic corridors requires special scenic conservation treatment.
6. **Shoulder** – The portion of the roadway contiguous with the traveled way for accommodations of stopped vehicles, for emergency use, and for lateral support of base and surface courses.
7. **State Highway** – Any highway owned and operated by the Department of Transportation.
8. **Traffic Sign Specifications (TSS)** – Detailed drawings of signs approved by the Department of Transportation for use in California.

Support:

The following terms are defined in the California Vehicle Code:

1. Alley - Section 110.
2. Amber - Section 112.
3. Authorized Emergency Vehicle - Section 165.
4. Automated Enforcement System - Section 210.
5. Axle - Section 230.
6. Bicycle - Section 231.
7. Bus - Section 233.
8. Business District - Section 235.
9. Clean Fuel Vehicle - Section 257.
10. Commercial Vehicle - Section 260.
11. Crosswalk - Section 275.
12. Department of Transportation - Section 291.
13. Disabled Person - Section 295.5.
14. Engineering and Traffic Survey - Section 627.
15. Freeway - Section 332.
16. Golf Cart - Section 345.
17. Hazardous Material - Section 353.
18. Highway - Section 360.
19. Intersection - Section 365.
20. Limit Line - Section 377.
21. Local Authorities - Section 385.
22. Motorcycle - Section 400.
23. Motor Vehicle - Section 415.
24. Official Traffic Control Device - Section 440.
25. Official Traffic Control Signal - Section 445.
26. Park or Parking - Section 463.
27. Pedestrian - Section 467.
28. Pickup Truck - Section 471.
29. Private Road or Driveway - Section 490.
30. Private School - Section 492.
31. Road - Section 527.
32. Roadway - Section 530.
33. Schoolbus - Section 545.
34. Sidewalk - Section 555.
35. Snowmobile - Section 557.
36. Stop or Stopping - Section 587.
37. Street - Section 590.
38. Street or Highway - Section 591.
39. Street or Highway – Highway Exclusion - Section 592.

- 40. Through Highway - Section 600.
- 41. Traffic - Section 620.
- 42. Trailer - Section 630.
- 43. U-Turn - Section 665.5.
- 44. Vehicle - Section 670.